

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB3053
Version:	POLREC
Request Number:	16523
Author:	Rep. Stewart
Date:	2/20/2026
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The policy recommendation to HB 3053 would require the Pardon and Parole Board to grant parole to persons who:

- Are 65 years of age or older;
- Statutorily eligible for parole;
- Have no serious infractions within the preceding 3 years;
- Have completed all required programs and treatment courses;
- Have maintained continuous compliance with institutional rules and regulations; and
- Does not fall within an exclusion.

Persons serving life without parole or for an offense for which parole is prohibited or who present a documented threat of imminent physical harm to others are excluded from this parole procedure. Persons convicted of an 85% crime, offense requiring registration as a sex offender, or offense listed as a violent offense are also not eligible.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

This measure creates new procedures for the Pardon and Parole Board (PPB) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) related to the granting of parole to certain inmates. In its current form, HB3053 is not anticipated to have a material impact on state budget or appropriations.

The POLAMD1 clarifies that certain provisions will not apply to certain sexual offenders. ~~This does not change the fiscal impact of the measure as described above.~~

The POLREC adopts the POLAMD1 to HB3053 and, upon receiving new information from DOC, the cost analysis is as follows:

Officials with DOC reviewed this legislation and evaluated its potential impact on the agency. Data current as of February 18, 2026 was reviewed to identify inmates who are 65 years of age or older that would meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the proposed legislation after applying the following disqualifiers:

- Active misconducts
- Life Without Parole or Death sentences
- Convictions for offenses restricting expedited release (90%, 85%, or 50% crimes)

The bill references individuals with a “verified medical or psychological finding” of being dangerous, which would require both DOC and the PPB to promulgate rules that define and implement this standard and subsequently project the resulting population count. As of February 18, 2026, after applying all statutorily disqualifying factors, internal subject matter experts estimate that there are 115 inmates who are age 65 or older that have been identified as potentially meeting the eligibility criteria. This number is limited as most inmates in this age group are serving time for offenses that restrict earned credits, and thus are not parole-eligible until they reach their required time-served threshold. In many cases, these individuals discharge their sentence upon reaching that threshold without entering the parole process.

Ultimately, any inmates released under this legislation would likely be replaced by individuals currently housed in county jail who are awaiting transfer to DOC custody. As a result, no reduction in DOC bed utilization is anticipated. Any fiscal impact would reflect avoided county jail costs at the reimbursement rate of \$32 per inmate per day times the number of inmates that are paroled rather than held in county awaiting transfer to DOC, but that number of inmates is not possible to predict given the available data. Incarceration costs at the county and municipal level may also decrease if inmates that would have been held are instead paroled.

Based on the current language of HB3053, inmates released at the state level in DOC custody would be replaced immediately by inmates from county, and no reduction in DOC's bed utilization is anticipated. Therefore, this measure is not anticipated to have a material impact on state budget or appropriations.

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Other Considerations

None.